



# *Butte County*

LAND OF NATURAL WEALTH AND BEAUTY

## **WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

1 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE • OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95965-3398  
(530) 538-4343 • FAX: (530) 538-3807 • [bcwater@buttecounty.net](mailto:bcwater@buttecounty.net)

**ED CRADDOCK**  
Director

January 21, 2003

Curtis Creel, Chief  
Project Operations Planning Branch  
Division of Operations and Maintenance  
California Department of Water Resources  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95821-8000

Dear Curtis:

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the status of the watershed modeling issue, that has been under discussion in the Engineering & Operations Work Group, of FERC Project 2100. I have taken the position that it was FERC related, because it was another way of looking at potential changes in runoff into Oroville Reservoir during the life of the upcoming license. The potential changes in runoff patterns are a concern of the greater science community and not just Butte County. I would also hope that such changes in runoff patterns are of concern to other State Water Project contractors as well. Nevertheless, I understand the reasons for not wanting to deal with additional sets of data for projecting inflows to Oroville than are commonly used in CALSIM II. We also understand that inflows to Oroville are only a small portion of CALSIM II and that many other inputs would have to be modified.

Therefore, I suggest that an approach to Butte County modeling issues already initiated by the Department of Water Resources' (DWR), Division of Planning and Local Assistance (DPLA), may be adequate for dealing with our initial modeling needs. This effort is linked to DPLA's Conjunctive Water Management Program in response to a request from the Butte County Integrated Watershed Stakeholders Group.

As you probably recall, my initial discussion of this issue included reference to our stakeholders group, and their efforts toward developing a Butte Basin watershed model in cooperation with a UC Davis proposal to CALFED by Dr. Lev Kavvas. I also had preliminary discussions with DWR's Flood Management Division on the work they had supported with the USGS on a Feather River Watershed Model. Mark Cowin and his staff have suggested that we enter into a joint effort to find funding to retain Dr. Kavvas to review on-going watershed and groundwater modeling efforts in Butte County. We are currently working out an agreement to fund Dr. Kavvas (at a level of \$50,000) under our DWR Integrated Watershed and Resource Conservation Contract.

While I am not responsible for FERC policy decisions in Butte County, I suggest that we put this technical issue off the table for now. I remain convinced that understanding the watershed better will benefit both Butte County and DWR. Our needs may best be met by pursuing this issue under a settlement agreement or other mechanism if approved by our Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Craddock', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ed Craddock

cc: Bruce Alpert  
Roger Masuda  
Stu Edell  
Mark Cowin